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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /134 W
---------- 050558
R 191510Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2791
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 9679

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, PK, IN
SUBJ: INDIA-PAKISTAN - TENSION DECREASES, BUT GOI
NOT SANGUINE ABOUT TALKS

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 9568; (B) NEW DELHI 9678

1. DAO NEW DELHI REPORTED JULY 18 THAT THE INDIA-PAKISTAN SITUATION OOOKED QUIETER (DAO 440 DTG 1904007), AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS JULY 18 AND 19 AVOIDED ALARMIST TONE WHICH MARKED AT LEAST ONE OF THEIR CONVERSATIONS EARLIER THIS WEEK.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS SEE LITTLE PROSPECT FOR EARLY TALKS WITH PAKISTAN, HOWEVER. WE DREW TO THEIR ATTENTION BHUTTO'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT PARACHINAR. THEY ADMIT BHUTTO SPOKE WITH SATISFACTION OF THE CHINESE GUARANTEE, BUT THEY MAINTAIN THAT PAKISTAN STILL WANTS ASSURANCES FROM INDIA OF A TYPE INDIA CANNOT GIVE. BHUTTO'S INTEREST IN TALKS IS STILL CONDITIONAL ON THESE ASSURANCES, THEY FEEL. THEY SAY THAT AT PARACHINAR HE SPOKE OF TALKS DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES AND TIME. A LETTER FROM AZIZ AHMED TO SWARAN
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SINGH RECEIVED LAST WEEK ASKED FOR CONCRETE ASSURANCES THAT

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INDIA WOULD NOT USE ITS NUCLEAR CAPABILITY TO DEVELOP WEAPONS WHICH COULD BE USED AGAINST PAKISTAN, ACCORDING TO THEM. SINCE MRS. GANDHI HAS ALREADY GIVEN GENERAL ASSURANCES, THEY BELIEVE THIS RELATES TO THE INSPECTION GUARANTEES PAKISTAN HAS TALKED ABOUT BEFORE. THEY SAY THEY ARE NOT GOING TO TAILOR THEIR ENTIRE NUCLEAR PROGRAM TO SUIT BHUTTO.

3. THESE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ALSO ARGUE THAT PAKISTAN'S ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS BELIE ANY INTEREST IN RESUMING THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION. THEY CITE THE ACCUSATIONS OF A TROOP BUILD-UP BY INDIA. AS LATE AS JULY 17, THEY NOTE, AZIZ AHMED IN ADDRESSING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REFERRED TO INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN AS "ENEMIES" AND ACCUSED THEM OF NOT MERELY RESORTING TO MILITARY ACTION OR THREAT OF MILITARY ACTION BUT ALSO OF CREATING DISRUPTIVE FORCES WITHIN PAKISTAN.KAJRACHI RADIO REPORT CARRIED BY FBIS.)

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS SPOKESMAN BRIEFED CORRESPONDENTS ALONG THESE LINES JULY 18, RESULTING IN FRONT-PAGE REPORTS JULY 19 ACCUSING PAKISTAN OF SPURNING INDIA'S PLEA FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS AND OF DEMANDING A NUCLEAR GUARANTEE FROM INDIA.

5. THE ALL-INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE SESSION WHICH BEGAN JULY 19 HEARD THE CONGRESS PRESIDENT TREAT PAKISTAN IN A RELATIVELY LOW KEY AND REITERATE HOPES THAT TALKS WOULD BE RENEWED WHILE ALSO EXPRESSING INDIA'S PREPAREDNESS TO DEFEND ITSELF (REF B).

6. COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE INDIANS ARE STILL WAITING FOR SOME EXPLICIT INDICATION FROM BHUTTO THAT HE IS READY TO RENEW CONTACTS WITHOUT FURTHER PRECONDITIONS AND DO NOT THEMSELVES PLAN TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVES BEYOND WHAT THEY ARE SAYING PUBLICLY AT THIS TIME.
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